

Montgomery County, MD
COUNTYWIDE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 14, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.
White Oak Community Center

Present Board: Karen Kincer, Alison Gillispie, Carl Blake, Chris Richardson, Donald Hawkins, Felecia Wilson, Helaine Resnick, Marcus Coleman, Mark Pharaoh, Melanie Stickle, Otto Gonzalez **Staff:** John Nissel, Robin Riley, Sandra Samuel, Janet Dixon, Trish Walsh, Traci Anderson, Mike Riley, Adriane Clutter, Doug Ludwig, Melanie Sasse **Absent:** Benjamin DuGoff, Dave Pullen, Jeffrey Sullivan, Marsha Weber, Michael Ma, Michael Shimoff, Myriam Paul

Meeting called to order by Karen Kincer at 7:35 pm.

Welcome and Announcements – Chair

- Karen Kincer welcomed the board

Review of June Agenda

- Motion made by Melanie Stickle and Mark Pharaoh seconded. Approved / Accepted by Board

Review and May Minutes

- Hold until September to approve

Reports

Officers and Committee Reports

Ex Officio Reports

Community Use of Public Facilities – Ramona Bell Pearson

- No Report

Commission on Aging – Marcia Weber

- No Report

Community Action Board – Myriam Paul

- No Report

Montgomery County Public Schools – Jeff Sullivan

- No Report

Commission on People with Disabilities – Benjamin DuGoff

- No report

MCRD – Robin Riley

- Wheaton Rec Center is still doing vaccinations until June.
- Germantown testing sites are doing five days.
- Senior Centers are now open
- Longwood closed for a project.
- We are currently working to fill 21 vacancies in career positions.
- Summer Camp will start on **June 26th –through August 8th** in mid, up, down counties.
- Contract camps start on **June 21st.**
- Soccer4Change, a county-wide program, will start on Wednesday and Friday evening – Targets areas Germantown, Watkins Mills, Gaithersburg, Wheaton, and Silver Spring Areas.
- Play Montgomery is an Up County and East County event. Financially struggle
- Pools will open to a full schedule on **June 18th**
- Homeless Shelters, Long Branch and Coffield will stay in place until at least **December 31st.**
- Long Branch library opening on **June 14th**

Parks Report – Mike Riley

- Thanked the board for advocacy efforts
 - Program Enhancements: Facility Conditions Assessment, Program Access, Pesticide Reduction, Park Activation, ADA Compliance, Athletic Fields, and Greenhouse Gas Reduction / Fleet Electrification
- Pandemic recap – trails, gathering, support
- Budget recap – FY22 Operating Budget
 - \$4.3 (4%) increase over FY21
 - \$2.2 added by County Council above CE
 - Compensation Marker, Health Benefit & Retirement Increases, Supply & Material Increases, and OBI
- Capital Improvements Program
 - County Council - \$ 3M was restored.
 - Ballfield Initiatives, Blair High School Fields (Phase 2)
 - Additional State Funding
 - Power Line Trail, 7 Bond Bills, and Program Open Space
- Summer camps are filled.
- Seven miles of roadway will be closed to vehicles between Friday at 9 am through Sunday at 6 pm allowing pedestrians and bicyclists to use the parkways on weekends for exercise.
- Helaine – Closed Parkway are great. Do you have plans for road closure?
 - We are looking into a permanent solution.

Board Election – Janet Dixon

- Karen reviewed the process (to make sure there were no last-minute entries and, more importantly, no objections to any candidates on the slate)
- Chris Richardson motioned to accept the slate of candidates as presented; Melanie Stickle Seconded. Approved / Accepted by Board
- Otto Gonzalez motioned to move slate forward, seconded. Approved / Accepted by Board

2021 Board Priorities

- Understanding the MCRD and Parks priorities
- John and Robin will present in Fall a discussion on equity.
- Melanie suggests a discussion of Active Montgomery, how to improve customer service.
- Helaine - How to conduct future meetings to be more productive and helpful to the board?
- Carl suggests a discussion of the procedures and better processes.
- The importance of the community input to the board
- Active Montgomery
 - Improve Customer Service
 - Improve Technology
- Karen - In addition to focusing on advocacy efforts, let us continue our efforts to work with Recreation and Parks in specific programs. Suggest having a retreat to allow Robin and John the opportunity to have an in-depth look at concerns and programs.
- Karen - The importance of the Ex-Officio members and how essential your organization represents important communities that rely heavily on services and cooperation with Recreation and Parks.
- Karen – Strategic Planning session for the board, willing to host in early September. Suggested items:
 - Presentation from MCRD and Parks on how each agency operates. It would be beneficial for the new members.
 - In-depth discussion in ways to continue working in between meetings
 - Creating sub-groups
 - Understanding the mission

2021 Board Meeting Format

- Karen, Robin, and John will meet regarding the CWRPAB Retreat
- In-person meetings will start in September at Wheaton HQ and will continue to provide Call-in options as well
- We will continue to meet on the second Monday of the month

8:15 Adjourned